



March 2013



Elizabeth Herzmann Hired as Wildlife Conservation Educator

Congratulations! to Elizabeth Herzmann who was recently appointed to the position of Wildlife Conservation Educator at Horicon Marsh International Education Center. She will work out of the education center but will also assist with education events and projects throughout Southern Wisconsin.

Herzmann was previously the assistant wildlife educator at the center for the past three years and brings a valuable background as the center is in the process of expanding its educational exhibits and programs.

"I'm thrilled that Liz is on-board as we move into the exhibit design and proposal phase of our center expansion," said Bret Owsley, Horicon Area Wildlife Supervisor. "As the center's assistant educator she brought a thorough knowledge of the marsh, its wildlife and, seasons to a wide range of audiences over the last three years. The knowledge and continuity that she provides with the center's educational activities is critically important as the Center continues to improve and become an important part of the communities. In addition to her role as the assistant educator, Liz has also been an important liaison to the Friends of Horicon Marsh, one of our most valued citizen partners."

"When I was a kid I spent a lot of time in northern Wisconsin with my family," said Herzmann. "We fished, hiked, camped and just spent time in the outdoors. We also took family camping trips to National Parks as my parents felt strongly that we kids should experience and appreciate the natural world. Going into outdoor education just seemed like a natural for me."

Herzmann says that every day as an educator on the marsh is different and that is what she likes most about the job.

"The thing that is most exciting to me is that each time I step outside the center and into marsh I never know what I'm going to see. Each group I'm with and each outing presents a unique opportunity to observe and interpret, to describe and help folks understand and appreciate the relationships, needs and habits of the wildlife we see. How wildlife utilizes the environment and how the animals and the marsh affect each other is an amazing story. The variety of teachable moments here on the marsh are amazing."

In addition to spending time in the outdoors, Herzmann's advice to someone interested in conservation education is to try and earn a degree in a natural resource field along with some education coursework. Volunteer or internship opportunities that translate the theory into hands-on experience are important also. "Real world experience is invaluable," she says.

Herzmann and her husband live in Dodge County and enjoy just about anything that gets them outside. Depending on the time of year they can be found hiking, camping, snowshoeing, birding or geocaching during their free time.



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To contact the Friends

Phone: 920-387-7890

Fax: 920-387-7888

Ways You Can Help Birds

1. Offer birds food, water and shelter in your yard. Keep your feeders and bird baths clean. For a great selection of feeders visit the Flyway Gift Shop at the Education Center.
2. Buy a Federal Duck Stamp or one of Wisconsin's wildlife habitat stamps. The money supports habitat purchases and management.
3. Drink shade-grown coffee. It supports habitats for birds that winter in the tropics.
4. Birds love plants. Contact your local nursery specializing in native trees, grasses and wildflowers to spruce up your property and create an inviting habitat for birds.
5. Use pesticides sparingly. They can make birds sick.
6. Build or buy nest boxes for birds to nest in.
7. Support the Friends or another conservation group.
8. Get a young person excited about birds. Bring a young person to one of the many events at Horicon Marsh International Education Center to learn more about birds.



Ways to Enjoy Birds

1. Photography. There are many levels and styles of photography from the amateur to the professional. Got a camera? Try it you'll like it.
2. Bird watching. Buy a book and binoculars and learn to identify birds. There are also bird clubs in the area. Attend a meeting and find out what its all about.
3. Hike around the marsh and just enjoy the serenity of the more than 300 bird species that make Horicon Marsh their home. The sights and sounds of nature are amazing.
4. Paint. We have many artists that pain the various birds on the marsh.
5. Feed the birds. Watching the birds feed in your own backyard gives you year round enjoyment.
6. Attend one of the many lecture or naturalist series events at the Education Center. You'll learn something and it is a great way to get to know other bird lovers in the area.
7. Attend the Bird Festival! Lots of great birding events slated this year!

Flyway Gift Shop

The Flyway Gift Shop has many items for sale to assist you in getting started with helping and enjoying the birds.



Horicon Marsh to Host 16th Annual Bird Festival May 10 through 13

Come to Horicon Marsh's Annual Bird Festival May 10 to 13 Celebrating All Things Birds and People who Love Nature

Horicon Marsh, a Wetland of International Importance and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Wisconsin, was originally established as habitat for migrating and nesting ducks. It has now become a major stopover for Canada Geese and many other migratory birds. Today, Horicon Marsh is increasingly recognized and managed as a wetland ecosystem for all of its plants and animals. No group of wildlife better represents the vitality of this marsh better than its birds. Throughout the years, over 300 species of birds have been sighted on this marsh. Migrating birds use it as a flyway. If you're a birder or a naturalist or just someone who enjoys the beauty of nature we invite you to The Horicon Marsh Bird Festival. It's a celebration introducing visitors to many of these birds at the peak of the spring migration. Come visit Horicon Marsh and take in the following Bird Festival events, including:

Bird Festival Events for 2013

*Indicates a paid (\$) event to participate

Friday, May 10

Habitat Birding Bus & Boat Tour* – 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Registration Required)

Sightseeing Tour by Boat* 1 to 2 p.m.

Night Sounds Bus Tour* (Registration Required) 7 to 10 p.m.

Horicon Marsh Bird Festival Photo Contest May 10 – 13, 2013

Saturday May 11

Big Sit at Horicon Marsh 4:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Horicon NWR East To West Bus Tour/Hike* (Registration Required) 6 a.m. to Noon

First Light Birding Bus Tour* (Registration Required) 6 a.m. to Noon

Horicon Marsh International Education Center & Festival Information 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Bird Banding Demonstration 6:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Horicon Marsh Bird Hike 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Birding Adventure Boat Tour* 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

New for 2013 ! Birding by Bicycle* (Registration Required) 8 a.m. to Noon

Crafter Bird Houses and Feeders 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Birding Adventure Boat Tour* 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

New for 2013! Birdy Scavenger Hunt 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Banding Neotropical Migrants 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Bird Camp at Marsh Haven Nature Center 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wetland and Water Bugs 11 a.m. to Noon

Sightseeing Tour by Boat* 1 to 2 p.m.

Wild Birds of Prey* 1 to 2 p.m.

Speaker Dr. George Archibald, Co-Founder, International Crane Foundation 1:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Wild Birds of Prey* 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Beginning Birding Bird Hike 2:45 to 4 p.m.

Sunday, May 12

First Light Birding* (Registration Required) 6 a.m. to Noon

Horicon NWR East To West Bus Tour/Hike* (Registration Required) 6 a.m. to Noon

Bird Banding Demonstration 6:30 a.m. to Noon

Birding Adventure Boat Tour* 7 to 9 a.m.

Horicon Marsh Bird Hike 7 to 9 a.m.

Horicon Marsh International Education Center & Festival Information 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Crafted Bird Houses and Feeders 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Birding Adventure Boat Tour* 9 to 11 a.m.

Bird Camp at Marsh Haven Nature Center 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Banding Neotropical Migrants 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

New for 2013! Birdy Scavenger Hunt 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Family Hike on the Egret Trail 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Wild Birds of Prey* 1 to 2 p.m.

Sightseeing Tour by Boat* 1 to 2 p.m.

Nature Crafts and Activities for Kids 1 to 3 p.m.

Birding Adventure Boat Tour* 2 to 4 p.m.

Hawk ID with Erik Bruhnke 1:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Wild Birds of Prey* 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Beginning Birding Bird Hike 2:45 to 4 p.m.

Hot Spot Birding Bus Tour & Hike* 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Monday, May 13

Habitat Birding Boat & Bus Tour* 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sightseeing Tour by Boat* 1 to 2 p.m.



Many events require registration. Please go to www.horiconmarshbirdclub.com and click on the Bird Festival link for complete event descriptions and registration information. It is four days of fun, adventure, nature, and learning!

So pack up your binoculars and join us! The birds will be here, will you?

WHERE:

Horicon Marsh International Education Center, N7725 Hwy 28, Horicon, WI PH: 920.387.7893

Marsh Haven Nature Center, W10145 State Highway 49 East, Waupun, WI or call PH: 920.324.5818

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, W4279 Headquarters Rd., Mayville, WI PH: 920.387.2658 x 22

Horicon Marsh Boat Tours, 311B Mill Street, Horicon, WI PH: 920.485.4663

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE FRIENDS?

Please support Wildlife Education and Conservation.

OUR MISSION: The mission of Friends of Horicon Marsh International Education Center is to provide financial and volunteer support for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – Horicon Marsh's efforts to educate visitors about the needs, values and uses of watersheds, wetlands and wildlife.

2013 MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- * Enjoy being part of a renowned environmental education facility and environmental preservation program.
- * Contribute to the continuing success and growth of the HMIEC.
- * Make friends with other members and volunteers interested in environmental education and conservation.
- * Be recognized by members and others for your important work and commitment.
- * Learn and share your knowledge about Horicon Marsh and its surrounding communities with others.
- * Be part of private and special events at the center.
- * Participate in annual membership meetings, picnics, recognition and awards nights.

Membership/Donation Categories

Individual \$20 ____

Family \$25 ____

Senior \$15 ____

Student \$10 ____

Patron \$100 ____

Corporate \$500 ____

Endowment \$ ____

Other \$ ____

Horicon Marsh Legacy Society—*Please contact us regarding bequest giving.*

Please accept my 2013 Tax Deductible Donation of \$ ____ To Friends of Horicon Marsh International Education Center. Specified for _____

Please accept my monthly gift of \$ ____ In Honor or Memory of: _____

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Mail to:

Friends of HMIEC

N7725 HWY 28, Horicon, WI 53032

VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM**Friends of HORICON MARSH INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER**

Please indicate your interest in the following volunteer areas:

____ **1. Visitor Services** (Welcome visitors, offer maps and brochures, answer questions, track number of visitors and make each Horicon Marsh visit as pleasing and informative as possible.)

____ **2. Gift Shop** (Welcome visitors to the Shop, highlight merchandise, finalize sales, wrap items and make each purchase a special destination happening.)

____ **3. Hospitality** (Available to operate Coffee Shop services for scheduled group meetings and events.)

____ **4. Habitat Management** (Help to build, restore and improve public access and recreational areas. Work on a variety of Marsh management and habitat projects with DNR and Friends of the Horicon Marsh personnel.)

____ **5. NEW Trim –a-Trail Tuesdays** (Adopt a section of trail. Keep it litter free, free of invasive species, and fill holes in the trail as needed. Every Tuesday April-November.)

____ **6. Membership** (Track membership information, dues, donations, and volunteer areas of interest. Microsoft Excel and Access knowledge helpful, but will train.)

____ **7. Office Help** (Work with Director on publicity, website, newsletter, mailings, brochures, community relations, and other office duties as needed.)

____ **8. NEW Weeding Wednesdays** (Weeding, mowing, general clean-up, planting as needed on the surrounding area outside of the education center. Every Wednesday April - November)

____ **9. Volunteer Naturalist** (Assist in teaching of wildlife education programs for school age children. Help people develop a keen understanding of the surrounding environment and promote good stewardship.)

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

DAYS AVAILABLE: _____

THANK YOU for your willingness to help.

Nest box Seminar 2013



With the return of spring comes the return of nesting birds to our yards. Many of these birds will be looking for a cavity or nest box to lay their eggs and raise their young. We can all assist native cavity nesters by providing and monitoring suitable nest boxes for them. A Nest Box Seminar will be held at the Horicon Marsh International Education Center on Saturday, March 2, 2013. Events at this seminar will help you learn

how to enhance bird habitat, provide nest boxes, and learn about songbirds and raptors that use nest boxes. All events are free and open to the public.

Members of the *Horicon Marsh Bird Club* and *Wisconsin DNR* have organized the seminar which will be held at the Horicon Marsh International Education Center located north of Horicon on Highway 28. There will be displays by the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW), the Horicon Marsh Bird Club, Marsh Haven Nature Center, the Wood Duck Society, Bird City Wisconsin, Friends of Horicon Marsh International Education Center, Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area and the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory. Members of these organizations will be available during the event to answer questions and discuss their role in providing "housing" for native cavity nesting birds.

Everyone can build their own birdhouses (great activity for children) assisted by carpenters of the Beaver Dam Senior Center's woodshop. Various nest boxes and kits can be purchased. Admission to the event is FREE! No registration is required.

Presentation Schedule

9:00 AM – Open House begins

9:30 AM – **Barb Harvey**, a local Raptor Rehabilitator, will show live cavity nesting raptors and what you can do to help them. Children will be especially interested in this presentation.

10:45 – **Bill Mueller**, Ornithologist and Conservation Biologist at the Western Great Lakes Bird & Bat Observatory will give a presentation on "Chimney Swifts: Ecology and How We Can Help Them".

12:00 PM – Lunch- on your own

Buy and build a nest box with Beaver Dam Senior Center woodworkers

Visit displays, gather information on Horicon Marsh area groups

1:00 PM – **Jeff Bahls** – Wood Duck Society board member, will talk about "How to Make Your Boxes Pro"Duck"tive.

2:15 PM – **Jack Bartholmai**, Dodge Co. coordinator for BRAW and wildlife photographer, will present a program on "Bluebirds".

For further information contact Jeff Bahls at 920-210-4832 or jbahls@wildblue.net or Liz Herzmann at 920-387-7893 or elizabeth.herzmann@wisconsin.gov.

If folklore is true, in February of this year, the groundhog predicted an early Spring. Before I completely put winter behind us, I want to recognize the DNR staff and Friends volunteers for another very successful Candlelight Hike. Special thanks to Margie Keuler, Leslie Hershberger, and Liz Herzmann for their event coordination and leadership. This is an outstanding event that highlights winter activities at the Marsh and brings many families to the Center from the surrounding area.

With the anticipation of Spring comes a re-awakening of the wildlife and foliage of the Marsh and an opportunity to take advantage of the longer daylight hours. As the season changes, there are lots of exciting volunteer opportunities for both educational programming and project teams that need your participation. Whether fundraising for the Palmatory Shelter and the Exhibits, assisting with the building of the boardwalk, attending the Nest Box Seminar, Movies on the Marsh or other programming, participating in Trim-a-Trail Tuesday, working in the Flyway Gift Shop, or becoming a Volunteer Naturalist, we need our members to market these opportunities with your friends and family members. Recruitment of new volunteers will be especially critical as many of our upcoming projects come to fruition in 2013 and 2014.

Our volunteers continue to be the heart and soul of the accomplishments the Friends have made. The Board is so very thankful for each and every one of you and the dedication of your time and talents to achieve our goals. Together, with an active volunteer group, the DNR and Friends can focus on upcoming projects and ensure 2013 will be a another productive year.

Sincerely, Jackie Steffens - VP of the Friends of Horicon Marsh Board of Directors

Upcoming Events!

See our website at www.horiconmarsh.org.
See us and “like” us on Facebook.



March 2	<u>Nest box Seminar</u> – 9:00am-3:30pm, visit www.horiconmarsh.org for more information.
March 2	<u>Movies at the Marsh</u> – 6:30-8:30pm, “Great Migrations”.
March 6	<u>Lecture Series</u> – 7:00pm, “Using Fire for Habitat Management” presented by DNR Biologist Paul Samerdyke.
March 16	<u>Movies at the Marsh</u> – 6:30-8:30pm, “Ice Age: Continental Drift”.
March 30	<u>Naturalist Program</u> – 8:00am: Dabblers and Divers; Wisconsin Waterfowl. All programs are free and open to the public, no registration required.
April 3	<u>Lecture Series</u> – 7pm, “Rain Gardens: A Good Fit for Your Yard” presented by Sharon Morrissey of UW Extension.
April 19-21	<u>Horicon Marsh Celebrates Earth Day</u> – Visit http://marshhaven.com/ and www.fws.gov/refuge/Horicon for Earth Day activities on the Marsh!
April 20	<u>Horicon Marsh Ed. Center</u> – 9am-12pm, Eco Scavenger Hunt and plant a sunflower to take home! 9:30-11:00am, Family Bird Adventure. Movies at the Marsh 6:30-8:30pm. “The Lorax”.
May 3	<u>Special Lecture Series</u> – 7pm. “Paddling Southern Wisconsin River Trails” presented by paddlers and filmmakers Mark Morrall.
May 4-5	<u>Archeology Weekend</u> – 10am-4pm, sponsored by Rock River Archeological Society. For more information visit rockriverarch.blogspot.com .
May 10-13	<u>Horicon Marsh Bird Festival</u> – Marsh-wide event. Guided birding hikes, bus and boat tours, kids activities, bird banding demos, live birds of prey, and special exhibits. Sponsored by Horicon Marsh Bird Club. For more information, visit: www.horiconmarshbirdclub.com .
May 17	<u>Naturalist Program</u> – 8:30-9:30pm. “Night Sounds of the Marsh”.
May 18	<u>Naturalist Program</u> – 10-11:30am. “Spring Wildflowers”.
June 1	<u>Tour de Marsh</u> – June 1. Explore the marsh by bicycle. Visit www.horiconmarsh.org .
June 8	<u>Naturalist Program</u> – 10-11:30am, Fabulous Frogs and Toads.
June 18-20	<u>Dig Into Nature Camp</u> – 9am-12pm, 1 st and 2 nd grade, pre-registration is required.
June 15	<u>Movies at the Marsh</u> – 6:30-8:30pm, TBD
June 29	<u>Horicon Marsh Paddle</u> – Canoe or Kayak the Canoe Trail at the Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area. Talk with interpreters stationed throughout the marsh to learn more! Contact 920-485-4663 for rentals and 920-387-7893 for more information!

